

Amendments to the Claims:

The following claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in this application (in the unlikely event that no claims follow herein, the previously pending claims will remain):

1. (Currently amended) An artificial throat for simulating and analyzing aroma release comprising:

a tube (1) having an inlet (2) and an outlet (3) and having an upper portion (4), a middle portion (5) and a lower portion (6);

a sample supply system (12) debouching at the upper portion (4) of the tube (1);

an inlet closure (9) for closing and opening the inlet (2);

an outlet closure (10) for closing and opening the outlet (3); and

a gas ventilation system (13) debouching at the lower portion (6) of the tube (1) for providing a gas flow, such as an air flow, through the tube;

wherein said sample supply system (12) comprises multiple supply channels.

2. (Currently amended) The ~~An~~ artificial throat for simulating and analyzing aroma release according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that,~~ comprising:

the sample supply system (12) debouches above the inlet closure (9).

3. (Cancelled).

4. (Currently amended) The ~~An~~ artificial throat for simulating and analyzing aroma release according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that, the~~ wherein said gas ventilation ~~systems (12)-~~ system (13) debouches above the outlet closure (10).

5. (Currently amended) The ~~An~~ artificial throat for simulating and analyzing aroma release according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that, the~~ wherein said gas ventilation ~~systems~~ system (13) is adapted for providing a gas flow in the direction from the outlet (3) of the tube (1) to the inlet (2) of the tube and in the opposite direction from the inlet (2) of the tube (1) to the outlet (3) of the tube.

6. (Cancelled).

7. (Cancelled).

8. (Currently amended) ~~The~~ An-artificial throat for simulating and analyzing aroma release according to claim 28, ~~characterised in that, the wherein said~~ gas ventilation system (13) ~~comprises means to increase~~ increases and/or ~~decrease~~ decreases the water content.

9. (Currently amended) ~~The~~ An-artificial throat for simulating and analyzing aroma release according to claim 28, ~~characterised in that;~~ comprising:

~~the means to decrease the oxygen content comprise at least one agent that binds oxygen~~ to decrease the oxygen content; and/or

~~the means to increase the carbon dioxide content comprise a container, wherein said the container~~ comprises ~~comprising~~ carbon dioxide and ~~being is~~ connected to the gas ventilation system (13) ~~by by a piping, to increase the carbon dioxide content.~~

10. (Currently amended) ~~The~~ An-artificial throat for simulating and analyzing aroma release according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that, the wherein said~~ interior of the tube (1) comprises retention means to improve the retention of a sample at the inner-surface of the tube.

11. (Currently amended) ~~The~~ An-artificial throat for simulating and analyzing aroma release according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that, the wherein said~~ tube (1) is in an upright position.

12. (Currently amended) ~~The~~ An-artificial throat for simulating and analyzing aroma release according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that;~~ comprising:

temperature control means (11) are provided.

13. (Currently amended) ~~The~~ An-artificial throat for simulating and analyzing aroma release according to claim 12, ~~characterised in that, the wherein said~~ temperature control means (11) are adapted to influence the temperature of the tube wall.

14. (Currently amended) The ~~An~~ artificial throat for simulating and analyzing aroma release according to claim 12, ~~characterised in that, the~~ wherein said temperature control means (11) are adapted to influence the temperature of the gas flow through the interior of the tube.

15. (Currently amended) The ~~An~~ artificial throat for simulating and analyzing aroma release according to claim 12, ~~characterised in that, the~~ wherein said temperature control means (11) comprises an outer tube, ~~which~~ wherein said outer tube is connected to a piping system, at which the outer tube and/or the piping system comprises heating means.

16. (Currently amended) The ~~An~~ artificial throat for simulating and analyzing aroma release according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that;~~ comprising:

a control system is provided, ~~which~~ wherein said control system is adapted to open the inlet closure (9) for passing a sample after opening the outlet closure (10).

17. (Currently amended) The ~~An~~ artificial throat for simulating and analyzing aroma release according to claim 21 ~~claim 16,~~ characterised in that, the wherein said control system is adapted to open the inlet closure (9) after a predetermined amount of sample has been introduced into the tube above the inlet closure.

18. (Currently amended) The ~~An~~ artificial throat for simulating and analyzing aroma release according to claim 21 ~~claim 16,~~ characterised in that, the wherein said control system is adapted to close the outlet closure (10) before providing gas.

19. (Currently amended) The ~~An~~ artificial throat for simulating and analyzing aroma release according to claim 21 ~~claim 16,~~ characterised in that, the wherein said control system is adapted to open the inlet closure (9) before providing gas.

20. (Cancelled).

21. (Currently amended) An artificial throat for simulating and analyzing aroma release ~~according to claim 16, characterised in that, comprising:~~

a tube (1) having an inlet (2) and an outlet (3) and having an upper portion (4), a middle portion (5) and a lower portion (6);

a sample supply system (12) debouching at the upper portion (4) of the tube (1);

an inlet closure (9) for closing and opening the inlet (2);

an outlet closure (10) for closing and opening the outlet (3);

a gas ventilation system (13) debouching at the lower portion (6) of the tube (1) for providing a gas flow, such as an air flow, through the tube; and

a control system;

wherein said control system is adapted to control for controlling the gas ventilation system (13) to exhaust repeated discharges of gas for simulating natural breathing.

22. (Currently amended) An assembly for simulating and analyzing aroma release comprising an artificial throat according to claim 1, further comprising an analyzing apparatus, ~~at which the~~ wherein said analyzing apparatus is connected to the inlet of the artificial throat.

23. (Currently amended) ~~The~~ An assembly for simulating and analyzing aroma release according to claim 22, ~~characterised in that, the~~ wherein said analyzing apparatus is a mass-spectrometer.

24. (Cancelled).

25. (Currently amended) ~~The~~ A method for simulating and analyzing in vivo aroma release according to claim 29 ~~claim 16, characterised in that, the in step C wherein said analysis step (C) comprises a mass spectrometer is used.~~

26. (Cancelled).

27. (Cancelled).

28. (New) An artificial throat for simulating and analyzing aroma release comprises:

- i) a tube (1), comprising:
 - a) an inlet (2);
 - b) an outlet (3);
 - c) an upper portion (4);
 - d) a middle portion (5); and
 - e) a lower portion (6);
- ii) a sample supply system (12) debouching at the upper portion (4) of the tube (1);
- iii) an inlet closure (9) for closing and opening the inlet (2);
- iv) an outlet closure (10) for closing and opening the outlet (3); and
- v) a gas ventilation system (13) debouching at the lower portion (6) of the tube (1) for providing a gas flow, such as an air flow, through the tube; wherein said gas ventilation system (13) is adapted to change the composition of the gas, comprising:
 - i) decreasing the oxygen content; and/or
 - ii) increasing the carbon dioxide content.

29. (New) A method for simulating and analyzing aroma release, comprises:

- (A) flowing a sample through a tube in one direction;
 - (B) transporting a gas through the tube in the opposite direction of the flow of the sample; and
 - (C) analyzing at least part of the gas after flowing through the tube;
- wherein additional steps may occur after step (A) flowing a sample through a tube in one direction, and prior to step (B) transporting a gas through the tube in the opposite direction of the flow of the sample, comprising:
- i) transporting a gas through the tube in the direction of the flow of the sample;
 - ii) collecting the gas after flowing through the tube; and
 - iii) adapting the composition of the collected gas;
- wherein the adapting step comprises at least one of the following:
- i) decreasing the oxygen content;
 - ii) increasing the carbon dioxide content; and/or
 - iii) increasing the water content.